

FANAC Fan History Project June 20, 2024

Newsletter 23

News! News! News! Half a Million Fan Pages!

FANAC.org now has reached over **half a million pages** of fan publications! (And that's one reason why this newsletter is later than we had planned.) You can see the gory details in the "By the Numbers" section of the newsletter, with all the facts and figures.

Unexpected donations (too many dead friends): If you've been following the "What's New" section of the website, you may have noticed that there are a number of zines scanned from the collections of fans that have passed away. It's an awful way to get these scans, but keeping the zines alive (meaning accessible) in some sense honors the lives of those dead friends.

In the past you've seen scans from the collections of Bruce Pelz, Ed Meskys, the Moffatts and others. Most recently, we've had fanzines from the collections of Steve Miller, Denny Lien and Merv Binns. Many thanks to those that thought of FANAC as a fitting destination for those pubs – Sharon Miller, Matt Strait and Perry Middlemiss, among them.

Zoom series: First, **thank you** to all of you who nominated the FANAC FanHistory Zoom series for a Fancast Hugo. We didn't make the final ballot, but it is wonderful to know that many people think highly of our Zooms. We are getting ready for the next Zoom "season", with three sessions already confirmed. Details can be found later in the newsletter.

FANAC International: The FANAC archive is the product of many hands, not all of them in the United States. Read on for Mark Plummer's piece on how he came to be documenting early UK fandom in Fancyclopedia and for Perry Middlemiss's article on preserving Fan History in Australia.

Mark Plummer on Fancyclopedia

As a long-time user of Fancyclopedia I was aware of its strengths but also its weaknesses. I would find information that was missing or that I knew was wrong -- I first learned of my own marriage in its pages -- but didn't take the next step of thinking, 'But I could fix that.'

People kept telling me that I needed a retirement plan and so on retiring part of that plan became contributing to Fancyclopedia. The actual mechanisms of that are reasonably straightforward and Mark Olson has always been very responsive to my queries when I can't work it out, as well as being tolerant of my frequent requests to delete pages because I've misspelled the titles.

My specialist subject is UK fandom and my current objective is to make sure there's a page for every known attendee of every UK convention before the Whitcon of 1948, the first of our Eastercons. That's about 92 people across eight conventions. The big learning point has been that I thought I knew this stuff and it turns out that I don't, so it's a voyage of discovery. There's a lot of information out there about some of these people and virtually nothing about others, and some of the lesser known names often turn out to be among the more interesting. And there's always new details to find. It certainly helps having access to so many old fanzines at FANAC.org and Rob Hansen's detailed research into so many facets of UK fandom.

I've no idea how much of the stuff that I'm adding will ever be of interest or use to anybody else but the research is enjoyable work in itself. And who knows, maybe somebody else will chip in more information about the enigmatic Mr. Rookes of Axminster.



To see some of Mark's work, read the Fancyclopedia entry on "Conventions in the UK before 1948" or "Maurice Hanson". To add your knowledge to Fancyclopedia, see <https://fancyclopedia.org/How to Join>

FANAC at Corflu 41

The FANAC scanning activity at Corflu was, as is usual, very productive. Folks kindly brought in a wide variety of material, including some from the 1950s Hydra Club, a batch of *Canadian Fandom* issues and a large collection of Las Vegas area fanzines.



Canadian Fandom is a core fanzine for us to scan, and Murray Moore brought a full 15 issues that we were missing to Corflu 41. That was much appreciated, Murray. Thank you!

Thanks to the scanning station at Corflu, we now have a lot more Arnie Katz zines, and several years of APA-V. The material is slowly making its way to the website. APA-V was a themed APA, with a different subject selected every month. In a sense, the mailings are a collection of essays. Many of these zines are online now, with more to come.

Thanks to Nic Farey and the Corflu 41 committee for their hospitality at the con. We also want to thank Corflu 41 for awarding us (Joe Siclari and Edie Stern) the 2024 Lifetime Achievement FAAn award.

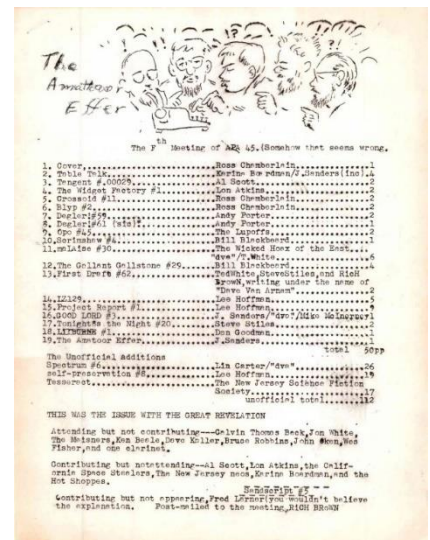
Joe: More on APAs

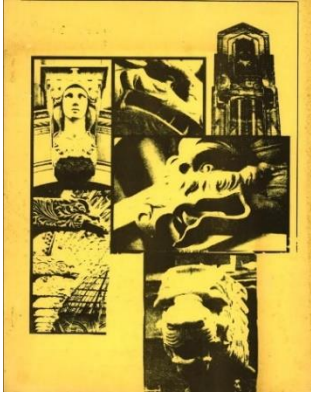
Since the last newsletter, we have added quite a few publications which were distributed through FAPA, SFPA, ANZAPA, and other APAs. We now have over 900 mailings from 18 APAs represented, each with at least one zine. Some mailings have much more than that available on the site. FAPA 100 is currently represented by 33 zines, totaling to 750 pages, with a stellar list of contributors including Ted White, Karen Anderson, Dick Eney, Dean Grennell, F.M. Busby and Lee Hoffman. The APA Mailings list is updated at least every month, so you can watch the APAs grow online, and see what's new.

Of all the APAs, APA-F might have the highest percentage of pros writing natter. Many mailings in the 1960s had material by the NY Fanoclasts who were rapidly infiltrating the New York publishing scene - Ted White, Dave Van Arnam, Dick Lupoff, Steve Stiles, Andy Porter, and others contributed. It's often just natter but there was talent there, and the natter is often entertaining.

Apa45 required that contributors had to be born during or after 1945. It also required that every few issues, contributors had to submit a major zine. It rapidly became one of the more prolific apas. Luttrell's *Starling*, the Couchs' *Quark*, Montgomery's *Warlock*, Vardeman's *Sandworm* and more make it an APA worth delving into.

One of the APAs you may not be familiar with is "The Esoteric Order of Dagon" (EOD). EOD was generally a sercon APA focused primarily on Lovecraft and weird fiction. We only have a few zines identified with this APA on the site, but they are worth checking out: Ben Indick's *Ibid* and J. Vernon Shea's *Outre*.





Thanks to Sasha Dumontier, we have two issues of *Outre*. These are massive fanzines, with poetry, reviews, reprinted newspaper articles and the odd bits of lyrics for an unproduced musical. For the most part, these are quick reads, with a couple of meaty pieces. Worth sampling.

Ibid issues are more typically amateur material, fiction, columns and such. Ben Indick liked to publish his own fiction with Lovecraft featured, and pieces by others as well. He has interesting observations in issue 15 about A. Merritt. Jerry Collins art is featured as well. Issue 12 has a previously unpublished self-criticism piece by Lovecraft himself, written in 1929.

As we get approvals to put more material on line, expect a lot of good items to show up in these and the other APAs.

Want More Frequent Updates?

If you want more frequent, and detailed updates, send a note to FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io . We send twice a week updates with "What's New" on the site.

Joe Siclari: Outstanding Additions since the last newsletter

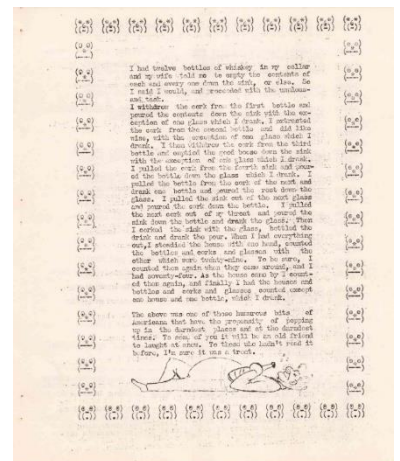
Mental Marshmallow is the first of the *Goojie Publications*. Edited by Miriam Dyches, later issues went out under the names of Miriam Carr and Miriam Knight. The *Mental Marshmallow* states it is "a one-shot type deal", but another 5 were published over the next 5 years, including *Moor Park* (1958) and *Syzygy* (1959).

Miriam managed to keep an entertaining series of fanzines going, with all of them being different. The *Mental Marshmallow* bubbles with her joy in friends and fandom (and provides a good description of the party scene in southern California). There's remarkably good narrative, and a distinct personality. One of the reasons I put Goojie Pubs on the "core scan list" is that so many fans said it was among their favorite fanzines.

Now almost forgotten, *Goojie Pubs* are worth digging into. Unfortunately, some of the issues are hard to read due to their reproduction, but at least we managed to save them, and now we have a complete set online. We welcome better copies for the ones that are fading. https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Goojie_Pubs/

Chanticleer, published by Walt Leibscher from 1943-1946, was a unique zine. Walt was definitely a character, and you could tell just by looking at an issue that this zine was going to be different. Walt probably put more effort into a simple layout than any other fan. He used his typewriter to create art on almost every page, long before people did it with their computers. The layout is attractive and detailed, and distinctive enough so that no one else seriously tried to challenge it.

Chanticleer not only had a provocative look to the pages, but excellent contributors and a sense of humor. *Chanticleer* is a zine you really have to experience. Many thanks to Murray Moore for providing a copy of *Chanticleer 1* for us to scan and thereby allowing us to complete the run available on FANAC.org . <https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Chanticleer/>



Perry Middlemiss: AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER – FANAC Report May 2024



The biggest news in some years regarding Australian Fannish history is the recent publication of *Proud and Lonely : A History of Science Fiction Fandom in Australia : Part One: 1936 to 1961* by Leigh Edmonds. Part Two will cover the period from 1961 up to 1975 and Aussiecon, the first World Science Fiction to be held in Australia in August that year.

Leigh's history will take us some time to digest but it does show a young Merv Binns on the front cover and his fanzine collection has been a major part of our scanning efforts over the past six months. Bruce Gillespie, Elaine Cochrane, Carey Handfield and I, with help from a few others, were able to salvage the Binns fanzine collection from the rapid clean out of his house by his relatives and in-laws. About 12-14 archive boxes of material were saved and we are gradually working our way through it all. Several fanzines from the 1950s edited by the late Lee Harding (*Wastebasket* and *Perhaps*) were discovered in the collection and these have now been scanned and made available on FANAC.org. Leigh considers these to be among the most important Australian fanzines of the period and are a great addition to the Australian titles on the database.

Alan Stewart has undertaken a lot of work over the reporting period in scanning and photographing convention material, from Australia and elsewhere. So much material has been documented that we now face the problem of working out the best way to catalog and display it all. That is an ongoing task and should all fall into place in the next few months.

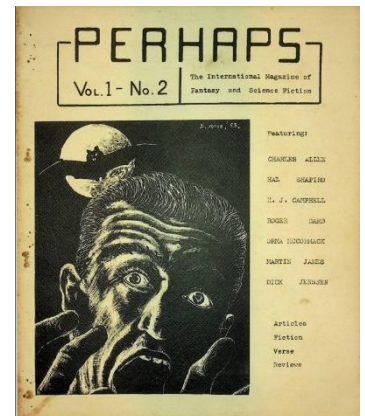
Work has also begun on uploading material from ANZAPA to FANAC.org. This will all be aligned with Marc Ortlieb's comprehensive and invaluable index to the apa that he has been maintaining for the past twenty years or so. Started in 1968, ANZAPA is the oldest APA in Australia and one of the longest-running anywhere in the world. It contains a wealth of valuable material that is impossible to find anywhere else.

Beyond the photographing and scanning, Irwin Hirsh and Leigh Edmonds are leading the way in establishing contacts with Monash University in Melbourne in order to set up a mechanism by which fans can bequeath their fannish material. Monash is currently the home of the extensive John Foyster collection and it is planned that we will add the Binns, Hirsh and Stewart material in their own collections.

And speaking of the Foyster collection, Leigh informs me that he has offered to assist Monash University in cataloging that material. He is aiming to visit the university in the next few weeks to begin that mammoth task.

Looking ahead we will continue to scan the Australian material we have to hand, as well as possibly starting to scan items from the Foyster collection when we have identified what is actually in there. This will certainly help us fill the gaps in the Foyster and Bangsund publications currently available, and with Foyster's fannish activities starting back in the early 1960s we are hopeful we will be able to find some rare gems.

I want to personally thank all of the Australian fans who have participated in this activity over past twelve months. It certainly makes the task so much easier. And we all look forward to a fruitful period ahead.



Filling in the Gaps – Three Ways

By necessity, the archive grows opportunistically. We scan what we can when we can find issues that are not represented. There is some method to our madness though. We have a “core list” of zines that we prioritize,

and some want lists that hopefully let others fill in the gaps. Please help us with these gaps if you can.

One More Needed: These are hard-to-find fanzines, some because they are very old, some because of short copy counts, and some because of random chance. Even the editors of these zines don't have them. Do you? They range from 1930 to 1979. **Help?** https://fanac.org/fanzines/begging_list-need-1.html.

Core Scanning List: Several years ago, we began prioritizing these 105 fanzines as titles we want to scan. It's 105 because we just couldn't get it down to 100. The ones marked with a red background in the last column are the ones that have the lowest scan completion rate on the archive. It's very cool that Rapp's *Spacewarp*, with 49% scanned, counts in that category. If you have ANY of these that are not online, please let us know. We'd really like to make them accessible. At the bottom, you'll see that we are over 85% complete on this list (!!!!). You'll be unsurprised to know that we plan to make a second core list to attack. When you find a zine you consider really important that's not on the list, just remember we always seek permission to digitize and upload these. Some editors have said no, and we respect that. https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf

Spacewarp	Rapp	134	66	134	1950	49
Spaceways	Warner	30	30	30	1938	100
Spanish Inquisition	Kaufman, Tompkins	10	9	10	1974	90
Stellar	White	15	14	15	1956	93
Tappen	Edwards	5	5	5	1981	100
Texas SF Inquirer	Mueller (FACT??)	55	49	55	1983	89
Time Traveller	Glasser	9	1	9	1932	11
Timeblinder	Evans	9	7	9	1944	78
Toward Tomorrow	Kepner	4	4	4	1944	100
Trap Door	Lichtman	34	34	34	1983	100
Triode	Bentcliffe	26	26	26	1954	100
Vampire	Kennedy	9	9	9	1945	100
Vector	various (BSFA)	286	281	286	1958	98
Vega	Nydahl	12	10	12	1951	83
Void	Benfords, White	30	30	30	1955	100
VOM	Ackerman	56	56	56	1939	100
Warhoon	Bergeron	31	29	31	1952	94
Wild Hair	Burbee, Laney, etc	5	5	5	1947	100
WSFA Journal	Miller (WSFA)	113	102	113	1965	90
Xero	Lupoff	10	8	10	1960	80
Yandro	Coulson	224	192	224	1953	86
Zenith/Speculation	Weston	33	31	33	1963	94

One So Far is where we share "orphan" fanzines. Currently, we have 322 of them, but with your help, 33 zines which were there now have their own index page, with additional issues listed. Thanks! As always, if you have additional issues for these orphans, that you can scan, please send them to us! If you know that these were one-shots, let us know that, and we'll put them elsewhere. https://www.fanac.org/fanzines/1_Issue-Maybe_More_to_Come/

Upcoming Zoom Series:

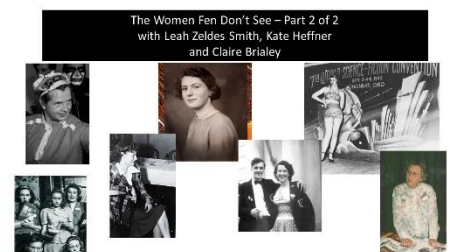
- September 22, 2024 - The Secret Origins of the Plokta Cabal**, with Steve Davies, Sue Mason, Alison Scott and Mike Scott
- October 26, 2024 (27 in Melbourne) - Robin Johnson, Australia's Fan Envoy to the World**, an interview by Perry Middlemiss and Leigh Edwards.
- January 11, 2025 - Out of the Ghetto and Into the University: Science Fiction Fandom University Collections**, with Phoenix Alexander (University of California, Riverside), Peter Balestrieri (University of Iowa), Susan Graham (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and Rich Lynch (m)

Zooms for Nov-Dec 2024, and Feb-Apr 2025 are in the works.

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/Fanacfanhistory>

Most of our additions this time are related to the Zoom History sessions. We've added to our channel the recordings of the four sessions we've held this year, with panelists from the US, UK, and Australia.

1. "APAs Everywhere" with Fred Lerner, Christina Lake, Amy Thomson and Tom Whitmore
2. "Joseph Green, an interview" with Joseph Green, science fiction writer and NASA's editor of the Challenger report
3. "Wrong Turns on the Wallaby Track: Australian SF Fandom 1960-1975" with Leigh Edmonds and Perry Middlemiss
4. "The Women Fen Don't See" with Claire Brialey, Kate Heffner and Leah Zeldes Smith.



Additionally, for the filkers amongst us who want to see what a 1980s filk was like, we've added a 41 minute recording from Tropicon 8 (1989), featuring Julia Ecklar and Orion's Belt. Thanks to Eli Goldberg for his help in getting it ready to go online.

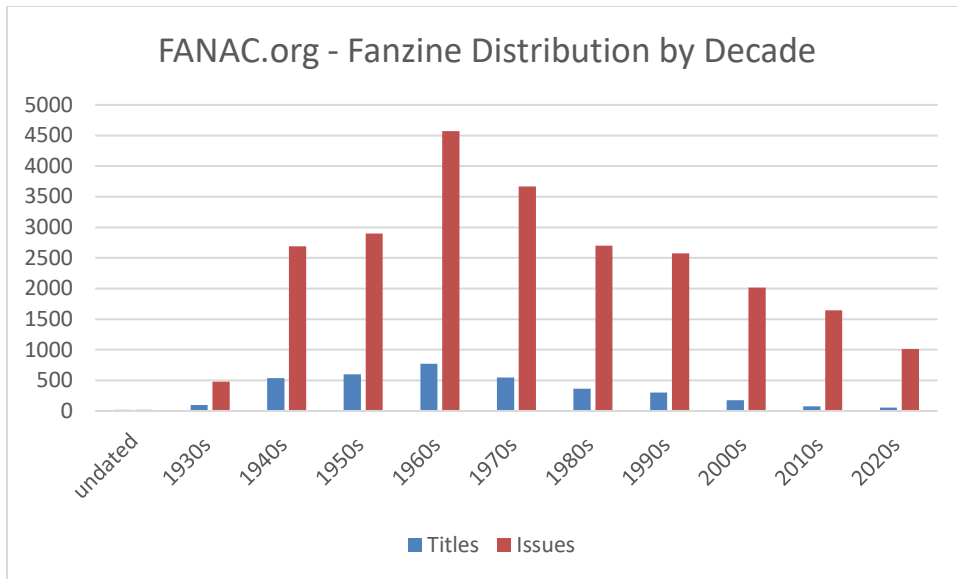
FANAC by the Numbers

The status paragraphs on the archive's progress have been a little too dense, so they are layed out here in what I hope is a more readable format. The first table is about publications, both fanzine and convention.

	Newsletter 23	Newsletter 22	
	June 20, 2024	December 8, 2023	Added
Fanzines			
Issues	24,270	22,305	1,965
Titles	2,651	2,403	248
Pages	421,221	396,070	25,151
Conpubs			
Pubs	5,142	4,308	834
Conventions	1,132	970	162
Pages	87,018	72,961	14,057
Total pages	508,239		

What kinds of fanzines are these, one might ask? Are they old? Are they new? Here is a breakdown by decade of the fanzines on the FANAC.org in tabular and chart form.

Decade	Titles	Issues
undated	17	18
1930s	98	481
1940s	534	2,690
1950s	597	2,900
1960s	770	4,573
1970s	545	3,665
1980s	366	2,701
1990s	302	2,576
2000s	178	2,013
2010s	75	1,642
2020s	55	1,011



There's a big rise in fanzine numbers in the 60s - Joe's insight is that the 60s are when college students discovered fanzines, as well as when many APAs blossomed in fandom.

In addition to original materials of course, Fancyclopedia and the YouTube channel supply context and audio/video.

	Newsletter 23	Newsletter 22	
	June 20, 2024	December 8, 2023	Added
Fancyclopedia			
Pages	30,079	29,520	559
People	6,747	6,439	308
Fans (a subset of people)	4,990	4,693	297
Fanzines	8,701	8,593	108
Clubs/APAS	1,574	1,540	34
Conventions	6,420	6,367	53
YouTube			
Views	181,900	170,838	11,062
Subscribers	1,470	1,363	107
Recordings	161	153	8

These are staggering numbers, and all thanks to the many fans through the last almost 30 years who have provided scans or fanzines for this archive project, audio/video recordings and the distilled knowledge that goes into Fancyclopedia.

Coming Attractions

FANAC plans to be at Glasgow for Worldcon, with a scanning station (in the fan table area). If you are attending, stop by, pick up your FanHistory ribbon and say hello. A scanning station is kind of useless without fanzines to scan, so please bring fanzines from your collection that are not already on the site, especially those on our core list. We'll scan them and give them back to you at the convention. See you there!

Please pass this update on to any fan or online list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](https://www.fanac.org) home page.

Fanhistorically yours, Edie Stern and Joe Siclari

Selected links:

FANAC.org: <https://www.fanac.org>

Fancylopedia 3: <https://fancylopedia.org>

Fanac YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

Fanzines: https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html

References: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/References/>

APA Mailings https://fanac.org/fanzines/APA_Mailings/

Alphabetical Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical_listing_of_fanzines.html

Chronological Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html

Country Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html

Editor Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/by_editor.html

Newszine Project: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

Core List: to Scan: https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html

Contributors since the last newsletter: We've received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Gloria Albasi, Lenny Bailes, Jim Benford, Mike Benveniste, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, John Bray, Claire Brialey, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Jack Butterworth, Ross Chamberlain, John Coker, III, Crystalandmoon, John Davey, Vincent Docherty, Sasha Dumontier, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, David Ennis, Gordon Eklund, Nic Farey, Edward Fineran, Michael Finn, Steve Francis, Sue Francis, Bruce Gillespie, Don Glover, Barry Gold, Eli Goldberg, Jeanne Gomoll, Joseph Green, David Grigg, Rob Hansen, John Wesley Hardin, Kate Heffner, Bill Higgins, Colin Hinz, Andy Hooper, Mindy Hunt, Robert Jennings, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Rick Kovalchik, A.C. Kyle, Christina Lake, Dave Langford, Sharon Lee, Evelyn Leeper, Mark Leeper, Matt Leger, Fred Lerner, Guy Lillian III, Rich Lynch, Joseph Major, Stan Meskys, Laurie Mann, Sam McDonald, Perry Middlemiss, Pat Molloy, Michael Moorcock, Mary Ellen Moore, Murray Moore, Mark Olson, Bee Ostrowsky, George Phillies, Mark Plummer, Andrew Porter, Dave Renfro, Mark Richards, David Ritter, Heath Row, Nigel Rowe, Nate at/of the Chrononauts Podcast, Alison Scott, Flash Sheridan, James Shields, Steven Silver, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Garth Spencer, Alan Stewart, Matt Strait, Geri Sullivan, John Swartz, Alan Thiesen, Amy Thomson, Jan Vaněk Jr, Pat Virzi, Taral Wayne, Tom Whitmore and Ben Yalow.

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